Corporation. The objective is to upgrade and professionalise the catering services through franchising, joint ventures and augment the infrastructure of rail related tourism for domestic and international tourists.

The proposal is being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments. The time frame for creating the Corporation will be known only after the proposal is approved by the Government.

Regularisation of canteen employees

306. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of workers in departmental canteens in the Southern Railway, Madras Division have not yet been treated as regular employees inspite of orders issued by the Southern Railway Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the said orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Informal channel of communication to unrecognised unions/associations

307. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unrecognised unions/associations/federations of Railway employees were granted informal channel of representation at various levels during the period 1978—80 by the then Railway Minister;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the above arrangement; and

(c) whether Government are considering restoration of informal channel of communication to the unrecognised unions/associations in view of representations received from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) In order to defuse the tendency on the part of the category-wise unrecognised associations/unions to precipitate matters, the All India Loco Running Staff Association and the All India Railway Employees' Confederation were granted restricted negotiating facilities in 1978 with the hope that they would adopt a consultative approach for solving the grievances of the employees across the table.

(b) As they continued to resort to agitational and disruptive methods, the facility given was withdrawn in 1981.

(c) No proposal for restoration of informal channel of communication to the unrecognised unions/associations is under consideration of the Government at present. However, the issues raised by them in their representations are duly considered and appropriate action is taken on merits.

गुजरात में आमान परिवर्तन

308. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में उन स्थानों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं जहां मीटर गेज रेलवे लाइनें हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार इन मीटर गेज लाइनों को बड़ी रेल लाइनों में बदलने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) क्या इन मीटर गेज लाइनों के कारण निर्यात और आयात के प्रोत्साहन के अवसरों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो वे कौन-कौन सी रेल लाइनें हैं जिनके संबंध में आमान परिवर्तन हेतु कार्रवाई की जा रही है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज):

गुजरात में आमान परिवर्तन

(क) गुजरात में निम्नलिखित मीटर आमान की लाइनें मौजूद हैं:—

1. राजकोट—बीरावल (185 कि॰ मी॰)